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Identical letters dated 25 November 2003 from the Permanent Representative of the Central African Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to present the views of the Central African Republic concerning an extremely important issue dealt with in the report of the multidisciplinary assessment mission to the Central African subregion (S/2003/1077), which was debated in the Security Council on 24 November 2003.

We have been patiently awaiting the report of the mission, which took place from 8 to 22 June 2003. My Government is pleased that the report highlighted the problems which still confront the countries of the subregion and which are mostly interconnected. Indeed, the Security Council's desire to find appropriate solutions led it to decide on a "comprehensive, integrated, resolute and concerted approach to the issues of peace, security and development in Central Africa". We believe that dealing with these questions in a piecemeal fashion, case by case or country by country, would not bring a lasting solution in the region. The proliferation of United Nations offices here is a matter of concern, especially as there is a certain lack of inter-agency coherence, and some subregional development programmes are too ambiguous and selective.

We acknowledge the efforts made by the United Nations, the Security Council and the other international forums to find a solution to meet our various concerns; however, peace and security, poverty elimination, efforts to combat HIV/AIDS and other diseases, transborder movements of weapons, refugees and displaced persons require a global and subregional approach, as several studies have often recommended. This is why the Central African authorities, like other delegations, thought it important and necessary to suggest to the multidisciplinary assessment mission the advisability of establishing a United Nations office in the subregion in order to centralize and analyse the activities of the agencies in the United Nations system. This proposal was subsequently endorsed by the twentieth ministerial meeting of the member States of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, held in Malabo from 27 to 31 October 2003.

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Notwithstanding the proposal to appoint a special envoy of the Secretary-General, "who would be available — as required — to work on political issues with Governments in the subregion" (a proposal which my Government welcomes), we still remain convinced of the need for such an office and reiterate the hope that it will be established for the sake of coherence and efficiency and in the interest of the Central African region.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for the text of this letter to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Fernand **Poukré-Kono**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative